

ESTABLISHING THE SECONDARY DEPENDENCY OF AN ADULT FAMILY MEMBER

Family members incapable of self-support who become incapacitated after the age of 21 can remain in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System and receive continued military benefits and privileges.

Secondary dependents

Secondary, or non-primary, dependents can include:

- Parent, parent-in-law, step-parent, parent by adoptions, or 'in-loco parentis' (in the place of a parent)
- Unmarried children ages 21 and 22
- Ward of the court, unmarried, and placed in the permanent legal physical custody of the member
- Unmarried child over age 21 incapable of self-support

Qualifications

To qualify as a secondary dependent:

- The individual's income, not including service member contribution, must be less than one-half of the actual living expenses.
- The individual must be 'in fact' dependent on the service member.
- The service member's contribution must be more than one-half of the dependent's actual monthly living expenses.
- The service member must provide documentation to prove living expenses of the dependent and the service member's contribution.

Quick tips

- Be sure to review instructions and required documents for Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps secondary dependency applications.
- Send your initial application or redetermination package to the correct DFAS office.



For more information

- Get answers about secondary dependency from your personnel or finance office.
- Find program details, service instructions and more at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, www.dfas.mil/militarymembers/SecondaryDependency/SDC.html.



For additional assistance, including specialty consultations, planning tools, non-medical counseling and more, call or visit MilitaryOneSource.mil | 800-342-9647



EFMP Exceptional Family Member Program